



State of California
The Resources Agency
Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

PROJECT TITLE	San Mateo/Santa Cruz Unit Headquarters - Parking Lot Renovation		
PROJECT LOCATION	CAL FIRE's San Mateo/Santa Cruz Unit Headquarters 6059 Highway 9 Felton, CA 95018	COUNTY	Santa Cruz
LEAD AGENCY	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)		
CONTACT	Richard Sampson, Forester II/Division Chief San Mateo/Santa Cruz Unit Headquarters	PHONE	(831) 335-6740
ADDRESS	6059 Highway 9, Felton CA 95018		

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

CAL FIRE's Felton Headquarters for the San Mateo/Santa Cruz Unit has been at the Highway 9 location for over 40 years. The paved (asphalt) parking lot next to Highway 9 has not been upgraded since the late 1960's. The parking lot has issues with tree roots and irrigation lines. The Unit wants to expand it to provide four additional parking spaces. These factors have motivated the proposal to renovate the parking lot. This renovation involves the removal of four non-native landscape trees (magnolia and atlas cedar). It will also include relocation of sprinkler irrigation lines. A flat area measuring approximately 30' x 50' will be graded, paved and replacement landscape trees planted. The trees all exhibit external signs of rot, regularly shed large limbs on the existing parking lot and office building and are due for replacement. The property has already been converted from timberland years ago. Based on the fact that the four trees are non-native species the Unit RPF determined that these activities do not constitute timber operations and the Forest Practice Rules do not apply. This project will occur on property owned by CAL FIRE.

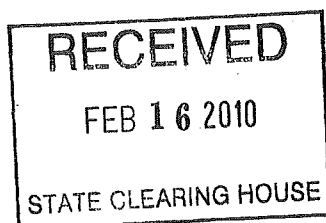
EXEMPTION STATUS

- ☒ Categorical Exemption Type/Section: 14 CCR § 15301 - Minor Alteration of Existing Public Facility
14 CCR § 15304 - Minor Alterations to Land
- ☐ Statutory Exemption (state code section):
- ☐ Ministerial (§21080(b)(1); 15268)
- ☐ Declared Emergency (§21080(b)(3); 15269(a))
- ☐ Emergency Project (§21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c))

REASONS PROJECT IS EXEMPT

The project fits within the descriptions for the two Categorical Exemptions cited above pertaining to minor land alterations and minor improvements at an existing public facility. CAL FIRE's San Mateo/Santa Cruz Unit Forester has conducted a limited environmental review, especially to address potential impacts to cultural or biological resources, and has concluded that no exceptions apply which would preclude the use of this exemption (pursuant to CEQA Guidelines 14 CCR Section 15300.2) and that only negligible environmental impacts will occur. One potential exception was further evaluated. This project is adjacent to Highway 9 in the town of Felton. Although this section of Highway 9 is not an officially designated Scenic Highway it has been determined eligible for its exceptional scenic values. The removal of the four exotic landscape trees will allow smaller native redwoods to expand visually. Visual impacts from construction will be very minor and short-lived. CAL FIRE has determined that this project will not damage the scenic resources along this segment of Highway 9 as defined in CEQA Guidelines §15300.2(d).

DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING



William E. Snyder, Deputy Director

2/10/10
Date